

# RAC

**RACER**. *n. f.* [from *race*.] Runner; one that contends in speed.  
His stumbling founder'd jade can trot as high  
As any other pegasus can fly;  
So the dull eel moves nimbler in the mud,  
Than all the swift-finn'd *racers* of the flood. *Dorset.*  
A poet's form the plac'd before their eyes,  
And bade the nimblest *racer* seize the prize. *Pope.*  
**RACINESS**. *n. f.* [from *racy*.] The quality of being racy.  
**RACK**. *n. f.* [*racke*, Dutch, from *racken*, to stretch.]  
1. An engine to torture.  
Vex not his ghost; O let him pass! he hates him  
That would, upon the *rack* of this rough world,  
Stretch him out longer. *Shakefp. King Lear.*  
Did ever any man upon the *rack* afflict himself, because he  
had received a cross answer from his mistress. *Taylor.*  
Let them feel the whip, the sword, the fire,  
And in the tortures of the *rack* expire. *Addison.*  
2. Torture; extreme pain.  
A fit of the stone puts a king to the *rack*, and makes him  
as miserable as it does the meanest subject. *Temple.*  
A cool behaviour sets him on the *rack*, and is interpreted  
as an instance of aversion or indifference. *Addison.*  
3. Any instrument by which extension is performed.  
These bows, being somewhat like the long bows in use  
amongst us, were bent only by a man's immediate strength,  
without the help of any *winder* or *rack* that are used to  
others. *Wilkins's Mathematical Magick.*  
4. A distaff; commonly a portable distaff, from which they  
spin by twirling a ball.  
The sisters turn the wheel,  
Empty the woolly *rack*, and fill the reel. *Dryden.*  
5. [*Racke*, Dutch, a track.] The clouds as they are driven by  
the wind.  
That, which is now a horse, even with a thought  
The *rack* dissolves, and makes it indistinct  
As water is in water. *Shakefp. Antony and Cleopatra.*  
The great globe itself,  
Yea, all, which it inherits, shall dissolve;  
And, like this insubstantial pageant, faded,  
Leave not a *rack* behind. *Shakefp. Tempest.*  
We often see against some form,  
A silence in the heav'n's, the *rack* stand still,  
The bold winds speechless, and the orb below  
As hush as death. *Shakefp. Hamlet.*  
The winds in the upper region, which move the clouds  
above, which we call the *racks*, and are not perceived below,  
pass without noise. *Bacon's Natural History.*  
As wintry winds contending in the sky,  
With equal force of lungs their titles try;  
They rage, they roar: the doubtful *rack* of heav'n  
Stands without motion, and the tide undriv'n. *Dryden.*  
6. [Diacca, the occiput, Saxon; *racca*, Ilandick, hinges or  
joints.] A neck of mutton cut for the table.  
7. A grate.  
8. A wooden grate in which hay is placed for cattle.  
Their bulls they tend to pastures far,  
Or hills, or feed them at full *racks* within. *May's Virgil.*  
The best way to feed cattle with it, is to put it in *racks*,  
because of the great quantity they tread down. *Mortimer.*  
He bid the nimble hours  
Bring forth the steeds; the nimble hours obey:  
From their full *racks* the generous steeds retire. *Addison.*  
9. Arrack; a spirituous liquor. See **ARRACK**.  
**TO RACK**. *v. n.* [from the noun.] To stream as clouds before  
the wind.  
Three glorious suns, each one a perfect sun,  
Not separated with the *racking* clouds,  
But sever'd in a pale clear-shining sky. *Shakefp.*  
**TO RACK**. *v. a.* [from the noun.]  
1. To torment by the rack.  
Hold, O dreadful Sir,  
You will not *rack* an innocent old man. *Dryden and Lee.*  
2. To torment; to harass.  
Th' apostate angle, though in pain,  
Vaunting aloud, but *rack'd* with deep despair. *Milton.*  
3. To harass by exaction.  
The landlords there shamefully *rack* their tenants, exacting  
of them, besides his covenants, what he pleaseth. *Spenser.*  
The commons haist thou *rack'd*; the clergy's bags  
Are lank and lean with thy extortions. *Shakefp.*  
He took possession of his just estate,  
Nor *rack'd* his tenants with increase of rent. *Dryden.*  
4. They *racking* and stretching scripture further than by God  
was meant, are drawn into sundry inconveniences. *Hooker.*  
The wisest among the heathens *racked* their wits, and cast  
about every way, managing every little argument to the ut-  
most advantage. *Tillotson's Sermons.*  
5. To stretch; to extend.  
Nor have I money nor commodity  
To raise a present sum;  
Try what my credit can in Venice do,  
That shall be *rack'd* even to the uttermost. *Shakefp.*

# RAD

6. To defecate; to draw off from the lees. I know not whence  
this word is derived in this sense; *rein*, German, is clear,  
pure, whence our word *rinse*; this is perhaps of the same  
race.  
It is common to draw wine or beer from the lees, which  
we call *racking*, whereby it will clarify much the sooner.  
*Bacon.*  
Some roll their cask about the cellar to mix it with the  
lees, and, after a few days resettlement, *rack* it off. *Mortimer.*  
**RACK-RENT**. *n. f.* [*rack* and *rent*.] Rent raised to the utter-  
most.  
Have poor families been ruined by *rack-rents*, paid for the  
lands of the church? *Swift's Miscellanies.*  
**RACK-RENTER**. *n. f.* [*rack* and *renter*.] One who pays the  
utmost rent.  
Though this be a quarter of his yearly income, and the  
publick tax takes away one hundred; yet this influences not  
the yearly rent of the land, which the *rack-renter* or under-  
tenant pays. *Locke.*  
**RACKET**. *n. f.* [of uncertain derivation; M. Casaubon derives  
it, after his custom, from *gaxia*, the dash of fluctuation  
against the shore.]  
1. An irregular clattering noise.  
That the tennis court keeper knows better than I, it is a  
low ebb of linen with thee, when thou keepst not *racket*  
there. *Shakefp. Henry IV. p. ii.*  
2. A confused talk, in burlesque language.  
Ambition hath removed her lodging, and lives the next  
door to faction, where they keep such a *racket*, that the whole  
parish is disturbed and every night in an uproar. *Swift.*  
3. [*Raquette*, Fr.] The instrument with which players strike  
the ball. Whence perhaps all the other senses.  
When we have matcht our *rackets* to these balls,  
We will in France play a set,  
Shall strike his father's crown into the hazard. *Shakefp.*  
The body, into which impression is made, either can yield  
backward or it cannot: if it can yield backward, then the  
impression made is a motion; as we see a stroke with a  
*racket* upon a ball, makes it fly from it. *Digby on the Soul.*  
He talks much of the motives to do and forbear, how they  
determine a reasonable man, as if he were no more than a  
tennis-ball, to be tossed to and fro by the *rackets* of the second  
causes. *Bramhall against Hobbs.*  
**RACKING**. *n. f.*  
*Racking* pace of a horse is the same as an amble, only that  
it is a swifter time and a shorter tread; and though it does  
not rid so much ground, yet it is something easier. *Far. Dict.*  
**RACKOON**. *n. f.*  
The *rackoon* is a New England animal, like a badger, hav-  
ing a tail like a fox, being clothed with a thick and deep  
fur: it sleeps in the day time in a hollow tree, and goes out  
at nights, when the moon shines, to feed on the sea fide, where  
it is hunted by dogs. *Bailey.*  
**RACY**. *adj.* [perhaps from *rayz*, Spanish, a root.] Strong;  
flavorous; tasting of the soil.  
Rich *racy* verses in which we  
The soil, from which they come, taste, smell, and see. *Cowley.*  
From his brain that Helicon distill,  
Whose *racy* liquor did his offspring fill. *Denham.*  
The cyder at first is very luscious, but if ground more  
early, it is more *racy*. *Mortimer's Husbandry.*  
The hospitable fages, in sign  
Of social welcome, mix'd the *racy* wine,  
Late from the mellowing cask restor'd to light,  
By ten long years refin'd, and rosy bright. *Pope.*  
**RAD**. the old pret. of *read*. *Spenser.*  
**RAD**.  
*Rad*, *red* and *rad*, differing only in dialect, signify coun-  
sel; as Conrad, powerful or skilful in counsel; Ethelred, a  
noble counsellor; Rodbert, eminent for counsel: Eubulus  
and Thrasylbulus have almost the same sense. *Giffen.*  
**RADDOCK**, or *ruddock*. *n. f.* A bird.  
The *raddock* would,  
With charitable bill, bring thee all this. *Shakefp.*  
**RADIANCE**. *n. f.* [*radiare*, Lat.] Sparkling lustre; glitter.  
**RADIANT**. *n. f.* [*radiare*, Lat.]  
By the sacred *radiance* of the sun,  
By all the operations of the orbs,  
Here I disclaim all my paternal care. *Shakefp. K. Lear.*  
Whether there be not too high an apprehension above its  
natural *radiance*, is not without just doubt; however it be  
granted a very splendid gum, and whose sparkles may some-  
what resemble the glances of fire. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*  
The sun  
Girt with omnipotence, with *radiance* crown'd  
Of majesty divine. *Milton.*  
A glory surpassing the sun in its greatest *radiance*, which,  
though we cannot describe, will bear some resemblance.  
*Barnet's Theory of the Earth.*  
The rapid *radiance* instantaneous strikes  
Th' illumin'd mountain. *Thomson's Spring.*  
**RADIANT**.

# RAD

**RADIANT**. *adj.* [*radians*, Lat.] Shining; brightly sparkling;  
emitting rays.  
There was a fun of gold *radiant* upon the top, and before,  
a small cherub of gold with wings displayed. *Bacon.*  
Mark what *radiant* state she spreads,  
In circle round her shining throne,  
Shooting her beams like silver threads,  
This, this is she alone. *Milton's Arcades.*  
Virtue could see to do what virtue would  
By her own *radiant* light, though fun and moon  
Were in the flat sea funk. *Milton.*  
I see the warlike host of heaven,  
*Radiant* in glittering arms and beamy pride,  
Go forth to succour truth below. *Milton.*  
**TO RADIATE**. *v. n.* [*radiat*, Lat.] To emit rays; to shine;  
to sparkle.  
Though with wit and parts their possessors could never en-  
gage God to send forth his light and his truth; yet now that  
revelation hath disclosed them, and that he hath been pleas'd  
to make them *radiate* in his word, men may recollect those  
scatter'd divine beams, and kindling with them the topics  
proper to warm our affections, enflame holy zeal. *Boyle.*  
Light *radiates* from luminous bodies directly to our eyes,  
and thus we see the sun or a flame; or it is reflected from  
other bodies, and thus we see a man or a picture. *Locke.*  
**RADIATED**. *adj.* [*radiatus*, Lat.] Adorned with rays.  
The *radiated* head of the phoenix gives us the meaning of  
a passage in Aulonius. *Addison.*  
**RADIATION**. *n. f.* [*radiatio*, Lat. *radiation*, Fr.]  
1. Beamy lustre; emission of rays.  
We have perspective houses, where we make demonstra-  
tions of all lights and *radiations*, and of all colours. *Bacon.*  
Should I say I liv'd darker than were true,  
Your *radiation* can all clouds subdue,  
But one; 'tis best light to contemplate you. *Donne.*  
2. Emission from a center every way.  
Sound paralleth in many things with the light, and *ra-  
diation* of things visible. *Bacon's Natural History.*  
**RADICAL**. *adj.* [*radical*, Fr. from *radix*, Latin.]  
1. Primitive; original.  
The differences, which are secondary and proceed from  
these *radical* differences, are, plants are all figurate and de-  
terminate, which inanimate bodies are not. *Bacon.*  
Such a *radical* truth, that God is, springing up together  
with the essence of the soul, and previous to all other thoughts,  
is not pretended to by religion. *Bentley.*  
2. Implanted by nature.  
The emission of the loose and adventitious moisture doth  
betray the *radical* moisture, and earnest it for company. *Bac.*  
If the *radical* moisture of gold were separated, it might be  
contrived to burn without being consumed. *Wilkins.*  
The sun beams render the humours hot, and dry up the  
*radical* moisture. *Arbutnot.*  
3. Serving to origination.  
**RADICALITY**. *n. f.* [from *radical*.] Origination.  
There may be equivocal feeds and hermaphroditical prin-  
ciples, that contain the *radicality* and power of different  
forms; thus, in the seeds of wheat, there lieth obscurely the  
feminality of damel. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*  
**RADICALLY**. *adv.* [from *radical*.] Originally; primitively.  
It is no easy matter to determine the point of death in in-  
sects, who have not their vitalities *radically* confined unto one  
part. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*  
These great orbs thus *radically* bright,  
Primitive founts, and origins of light  
Enliven worlds deny'd to human fight. *Prior.*  
**RADICALNESS**. *n. f.* [from *radical*.] The state of being  
radical.  
**TO RADICATE**. *v. a.* [*radicatus*, from *radix*, Lat.] To  
root; to plant deeply and firmly.  
Meditation will *radicate* these feeds, fix the transient gleam  
of light and warmth, confirm resolutions of good, and give  
them a durable consistence in the soul. *Hammond.*  
Nor have we let fall our pen upon discouragement of un-  
belief, from *radicated* beliefs, and points of high pre-  
scription. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*  
If the object stays not on the sense, it makes not impression  
enough to be remembered; but if it be repeated there, it leaves  
plenty enough of those images behind it, to strengthen the  
knowledge of the object: in which *radicated* knowledge, if  
the memory consist, there would be no need of reserving those  
atoms in the brain. *Glanvill's Defence.*  
**RADICATION**. *n. f.* [*radication*, Fr. from *radicate*.] The act  
of fixing deep.  
They that were to plant a church, were to deal with men  
of various inclinations, and of different habits of sin, and  
degrees of *radication* of those habits; and to each of these  
some proper application was to be made to cure their souls.  
*Hammond's Fundamentals.*  
**RADICLE**. *n. f.* [*radicle*, Fr. from *radix*, Lat.]  
*Radicle* is that part of the seed of a plant, which, upon its  
vegetation, becomes its root. *Quincy.*

# RAG

**RADISH**. *n. f.* [*rædic*, Sax. *radix*, *raifort*, Fr. *raphanus*, Lat.]  
A root.  
The flower of the *radish* consists of four leaves, which are  
placed in the form of a cross; out of the flower-cup rises  
the pointal, which afterward turns to a pod in form of an  
horn, that is thick, spongy, and furnished with a double row  
of roundish seeds, which are separated by a thin membrane;  
there are five species; of that which is commonly cultivated  
in the kitchen-gardens for its root, there are several varie-  
ties; as the small topped, the deep-red, and the long topped  
stripped *radish*. *Miller.*  
**RADIUS**. *n. f.* [Latin.]  
1. The semi-diameter of a circle.  
2. A bone of the fore-arm, which accompanies the ulna from  
the elbow to the wrist.  
**TO RAFF**. *v. a.* To sweep; to huddle; to take hastily with-  
out distinction.  
Their causes and effects I thus *raff* up together. *Carew.*  
**TO RAFFLE**. *v. n.* [*raffler*, to finish, Fr.] To cast dice for  
a prize, for which every one lays down a stake.  
Letters from Hampstead give me an account, there is a late  
institution there, under the name of a *raffing* shop. *Tatler.*  
**RAFFLE**. *n. f.* [*raffle*, Fr. from the verb.] A species of game  
or lottery, in which many stake a small part of the value of  
some single thing, in consideration of a chance to gain it.  
The toy, brought to Rome in the third triumph of Pompey,  
being a pair of tables for gaming, made of two precious stones,  
three foot broad, and four foot long, would have made a fine  
*raffle*. *Arbutnot on Coins.*  
**RAFT**. *n. f.* [probably from *ratia*, Latin.] A frame or float  
made by laying pieces of timber or croses each other.  
Where is that son  
That floated with thee on the fatal *raft*. *Shakefp.*  
Fell the timber of yon lofty grove,  
And form a *raft*, and build the rising ship. *Pope.*  
**RAFT**. *part. pass.* of *raff* or *raff*. *Spenser.* Torn; rent.  
**RAFTER**. *n. f.* [*ræfter*, Sax. *rafter*, Dutch; corrupted, says  
*Junius*, from *raaf tree*.] The secondary timbers of the  
house; the timbers which are let into the great beam.  
The rafters of my body, bone,  
Being fill with you, the muscle, finew and vein;  
Which tile this house, will come again. *Donne.*  
Shepherd,  
I trust thy honest offer'd courtesy,  
Which oft is sooner found in lowly sheds  
With smoky rafters, than in tapstey halls. *Milton.*  
On them the Trojans cast  
Stones, rafters, pillars, beams. *Denham.*  
From the East, a Belgian wind  
His hostile breath through the dry rafters sent;  
The flames impell'd. *Dryden.*  
The roof began to mount aloft,  
Aloft rose every beam and rafter,  
The heavy wall climb'd slowly after. *Swift's Miscel.*  
**RAFTERED**. *adj.* [from *rafter*.] Built with rafters.  
No *raftered* roofs with dance and tabor sound,  
No noon-tide bell invites the country round. *Pope.*  
**RAG**. *n. f.* [*racce*, torn, Saxon; *racce*, Ilandick.]  
1. A piece of cloth torn from the rest; a tatter.  
Cows, hoods and habits, with their wearers tost,  
And flutter'd into *rags*. *Milton.*  
*Rags* are a great improvement of chalky lands. *Mortimer.*  
2. Any thing rent and tattered; worn out cloaths.  
Fathers that wear *rags*,  
Do make their children blind;  
But fathers that bear bags,  
Shall see their children kind. *Shakefp. King Lear.*  
Worn like a cloth;  
Gnawn into *rags* by the devouring moth.  
Content with poverty, my foul I arm;  
And virtue, though in *rags*, will keep me warm. *Dryden.*  
3. A fragment of dress.  
He had first matter seen undrest;  
He took her naked all alone.  
Before one *rag* of form was on. *Hudibras, p. i.*  
**RAGAMUFFIN**. *n. f.* [from *rag* and I know not what else.]  
I have led my *ragamuffins* where they were pepper'd; there's  
not three of my hundred and fifty left alive; and they are  
for the town's end to beg during life. *Shakefp. Henry IV.*  
Shall we brook that paltry ass  
And feeble scoundrel, Hudibras,  
With that more paltry *ragamuffin*,  
Ralpho, vapouring and huffing.  
Attended with a crew of *ragamuffins*, he broke into his  
house, turned all things topsy-turvy; and then set it on  
fire. *Swift.*  
**RAGE**. *n. f.* [*rage*, Fr.]  
1. Violent anger; vehement fury.  
This tiger-footed *rage*, when it shall find  
The harm of unskann'd swiftness, will, too late,  
Tie leaden pounds to's heels. *Shakefp. Coriolanus.*